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with a load of obloquy that fairly defeats its own purpose. Mirabeau is another target for this kind of attack. The man who truly said, when he lay dying, that he "carried in his heart the death-dirge of the French monarchy,"—the one man who could and would have saved the crown,—seems to Mr. Yonge another of Marie Antoinette's brutal persecutors, another of the vindictive enemies of her peace and insulters of her majesty. Throughout the book there is something personal, something indescribably angry and hot-headed, in the way in which Mr. Yonge espouses his heroine's cause; and one has an inclination to smile at his fiercest invectives, and transfer his attention from the argument to the indications of the author's ardent temper.

Certain features of Mr. Yonge's style are perhaps less worthy of attention. Yet we confess that his translations from French documents occasionally seem to us conspicuously awkward; nor are we prepared to find Goethe spoken of with somewhat unnecessary particularity as "the celebrated German writer, Goethe." We are not informed which biography is meant when Mr. Yonge refers to "Goethe's biography, p. 287," for his authority as to the "celebrated writer"; and there are similar instances of rather slipshod reference throughout his notes.

## 12. — *Report of the Board of Commissioners of the New York State Survey.*

PROBABLY few of us are aware that we do not possess any maps of our Eastern States which are worthy of the name. Those which our map-publishers furnish us are the best, doubtless, that can be made from the material which is available, but they are wanting in the essential characteristics of a good map, in that they do not accurately represent the location of the points indicated upon them, nor do they pretend to give any information as to the surface-character of the region indicated. A good map must not only be accurate, but must distinguish mountains from valleys, and give such details that, when we see it, we can form a definite idea of the character of country it represents; whereas from our present maps it would seem as easy to build a straight railroad from New York to Buffalo as from Chicago to St. Louis, and the only distinction indicated between the fertile valley of the Mohawk and the desolate wilds of the Adirondacks is that one is colored blue and the other pink, or *vice versa*, as the case may be. Without accurate maps and well-defined boundaries there never can be any certain and undisputed titles to land. Without good topographical maps no great railroad line can be intelligently laid out, as the present deplorable financial status of railroad interests throughout the country abundantly

proves. The general government, after giving away millions for the building of railroads over practically level plains, which, by an ingenious wording of their charter, became mountains in the eyes of Congress, is spending thousands, as some may think extravagantly, for the preparation of topographical maps of its great unexplored region in the West, which will soon be better known to us geographically than many of our populous Eastern States. Pennsylvania, whose railroad interests and immense mineral resources are so intimately connected, appropriates \$50,000 annually for the maintenance of a topographical and geological survey of her State.

From the little pamphlet under examination we learn that New York has awakened to the importance of the subject, and has commenced a State survey on principles which, if consistently and intelligently carried out, may serve as an example to the whole country. In April, 1876, a board of commissioners, consisting of six most intelligent and public-spirited men, was appointed for making an accurate trigonometric and topographical survey of the State for the determination of State and county lines, etc., "to serve without compensation." This board, which consisted of Messrs. Wm. A. Wheeler, Horatio Seymour, John V. L. Pruyn, R. S. Hale, Fred. L. Olmsted, Wm. Dorsheimer, and F. A. Stout, after deliberating upon the best method of carrying on the work, proceeded to appoint Mr. James T. Gardner, a gentleman of long experience on the California and Government Surveys, and of high personal character and enthusiastic in his profession, as Director. With the caution of a truly scientific man, Mr. Gardner devoted the first summer to making a general plan of the work, carefully examining the present maps of the State, the condition of State, county, and township boundaries, and laying out a primary triangulation through ten of the midland counties. This Report contains the result of his labors and those of the commissioners, so concisely expressed that it were almost impossible to condense it, and it should be read in its entirety by all who have the best interests of the State at heart.

The Report wisely lays principal stress upon the practical results of the Survey, which appeal to and can be understood by all, leaving the scientific advantage, which is appreciated by the few and already understood by them, to speak for itself. One of the first evils to be remedied is the want of well-defined and permanent boundaries, which vitiates the whole system of land-surveys. Mr. Gardner says of the present condition of county boundaries: "Although the boundaries of eleven counties, having over sixty corners, were examined in whole or part, yet only two corners were found marked with any authentic monuments." The present maps locate many of the principal cities and

towns, such as Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, and others, from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 out of their true position. He estimates that in the case of the Oswego Midland Railroad, \$20,000,000 might have been saved to the people of the State had they possessed an accurate topographical map. He proposes to establish permanent monuments, to be used by local surveyors, and to be the basis of topographical maps, whose position shall be determined by a general triangulation throughout the State, at an estimated cost of not more than \$200,000. Of the \$20,000 appropriated for the first year's work, only a little over \$3,000 was expended, and yet, in spite of the general approbation manifested by the most intelligent men throughout the country, opposition to the undertaking has been made on the ground that it is a great and unnecessary expense, and one which the condition of the country does not demand. Surely a State which has already spent \$7,000,000 and is about to spend as much more upon a Capitol, with regard to the beauty of which, to use a mild expression, architects seriously disagree, and which certainly can be of no practical benefit to the people at large, ought to be able to give as much as this to enable its citizens to know where they live, whether they are fairly taxed, and what are the boundaries of their land.

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13. — *Gastronomy as a Fine Art; or, The Science of Good Living: A Translation of the "Physiologie du Goût" of Brillat-Savarin.* By R. E. ANDERSON, M. A. London: Chatto and Windus. 1877.

PRESUMING that among all the reserved rights of the publishers or translator of the "*Physiologie du Goût*," the right of criticism is not included, we must venture the remark that Mr. Anderson's *raison d'être* can hardly be considered sufficient for his performance. "The present attempt," says Mr. Anderson, "to present Brillat-Savarin in an English dress is due to a statement made last year in '*Notes and Queries*,' to the effect that a translation was and had long been a decided want in English libraries." Such a want may have long been felt in English libraries, but it is not a violent presumption that most people who resort to English libraries are able to read Brillat-Savarin in his vernacular, and if they cannot, the translation of Mr. Anderson will scarcely give them an adequate idea of the original. There have been several attempts made at rendering this most Frenchy of French authors into English, and there was published in New York, some twenty-five years ago, a rendering of the "*Physiologie*" into our mother tongue by Fayette Robinson, which, if not as scholarly as the translation of Mr. An-